



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-CO-N

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS, OPERATIONS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND CHIEFS NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, MAJOR SUBORDINATE
COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager Award 2012 Selection

1. Reference Memorandum, CECW-CO-N, 22 June 2012, subject: Nominations for Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager Award
2. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has selected Ms. Suzanne Estock, Natural Resources Specialist at Youghioghenny River Lake in the Pittsburgh District, as the recipient of the 2012 Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager Award.
3. Ms. Estock's selfless service in developing the volunteer program and building and sustaining partnerships embodies the mission of the Corps and reflects the spirit of Take Pride in America. Suzanne's dedication to public involvement in the shared stewardship of recreational, natural, and cultural resources is the centerpiece of his service to the Corps, her community, and her country.
4. The award winners from each agency will be honored at the Take Pride in America National Awards Ceremony on 11 October, 2012 in Washington, D.C. Suzanne's accomplishments bring positive recognition to herself and the Corps.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Encl

RICHARD C. LOCKWOOD
Chief, Operations
Directorate of Civil Works

Take Pride in America - Federal Land Manager Award – 2012

Nominee Achievements:

Suzanne Estock, Natural Resource Specialist Youghiogheny Lake, is nominated for the 2012 Federal Land Manager Award for her continued role as Volunteer Coordinator resulting in a comprehensive volunteer program at the project. She was instrumental in starting (and growing) a partnership with the Mountain Watershed Association (MWA) as part of the Youghiogheny River Keeper Program. The MWA is a non-profit organization of over 1200 members concerned with conservation, restoration and protection of watersheds. NR Specialist Estock showed a high level of initiative in building this partnership, resulting in MWA volunteers placing and monitoring in-stream data loggers on all seven main tributaries at Youghiogheny Lake. This is the first such program in the Pittsburgh District. Through her coordination efforts, MWA, Somerset Conservation District, Ducks Unlimited, and the Corps have worked collaboratively to install and maintain data logger equipment and to collect, analyze and report information on stream water temperature, level, and conductivity. Overall, five MWA volunteers contribute a total of 28 hrs/week to oversee this on-going program which resulted in 224 hrs and \$4,878 of service in 2011. This stream monitoring program is part of a comprehensive monitoring program for the entire Youghiogheny River basin which allows the Corps and stakeholders to get a pulse on river conditions. Her commitment to this successful partnership not only meets our Corps environmental mission, but also promotes the TPIA mission to foster stewardship over public resources and increases protection/enhancement of public lands. It also supports the America's Great Outdoors initiative by protecting and enhancing water resources and ecosystems on federal lands.

Each year the project hosts Special Recreation Day for 350 special needs participants within the region and involves a day of fun which includes hay rides, boat rides, crafts, games, trout fishing, music and lunch. The event has been going on for the past 40 years and involves year round coordination and effort by the project staff. A Local Lions Club, Women's Civic Club, high schools, ambulance squad, vendors, and private individuals make up the 61 volunteers contributing 305 hrs and \$16,917 worth of service that make this a huge community success. This is an example of the broad spectrum of partners and individuals utilized in volunteer activities at the project.

Additionally, the project organizes and conducts a shoreline cleanup as part of National Public Lands Day. Dumpsters are strategically located around the lake for adjacent landowners to remove debris from the shoreline. Corps and volunteer owned boats are utilized to remove tires, Styrofoam, broken up docks, and floatables from the lake shore. A total of 33 volunteers contributed 132 hrs and \$2,820 of volunteer service as part of NPLD. This annual event fosters an environment of stewardship over the public resources at Youghiogheny Lake.

NR Specialist Estock is committed to the Volunteer Campground Host program at Youghiogheny's three campgrounds. She actively recruits volunteer hosts through the Volunteer Clearing House, Workamper, local ads and bulletin boards. She interviews and selects appropriate volunteers, conducts orientation and training classes, and sets up schedules and work assignments throughout the season. Ms. Estock wrote the project's Volunteer Handbook to be

used as a guide for each host. In addition to their normal campground duties, Ms. Estock has been creative in using the skills brought in by each host for a gamut of activities, including conducting interpretive programs, dock inspections, wildlife & fisheries management, construction of wood duck boxes/bulletin boards/access steps, distributing water safety materials, and policing of day use areas for litter. Her efforts resulted in 10 volunteer hosts contributing 8,544 hrs for a total of \$91,250 of service. This innovative use of volunteers demonstrates Ms. Estock's resourcefulness in recruiting volunteers for the needs of the project.

A unique volunteer program that helps meet the ongoing needs of the project's fisheries management activities is an MOU and license agreement with the Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CRTU). As a cooperative effort between CRTU, the Corps, D/R Hydro, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission, a cage culture trout-rearing facility was installed in the Youghiogheny tail waters in 1998. This program continues to succeed in raising trout for transport and release throughout the state. In 2011, a total of 22 volunteers provided 792 hrs and \$16,917 worth of service.

Four additional volunteers accomplished dock inspections, miscellaneous maintenance projects, and administrative assistance totaling 288 hrs of service valued at \$6,152.

Recognizing and awarding volunteers is a big part of NR Specialist Estock's oversight and is key toward the success of the volunteer program at Youghiogheny Lake. She organized a volunteer recognition pot luck lunch and combined it with an EEO Special Emphasis Program as part of Hispanic Heritage month. Volunteer, District Office, and Project Staff all came together to share a meal and build lasting relationships and memories for all involved. Volunteers were recognized individually and given certificates of appreciation. Overall, the volunteer program at Youghiogheny Lake continues to be vibrant with a broad range of volunteers and activities that accomplish many great things. Combined efforts of all 135 volunteers accounted for 10,258 hrs of service for a total value of \$138,934. The continued commitment and effort of Volunteer Coordinator Estock and all involved sets a positive stewardship example for visitors using public lands and helps foster that all important attitude to Take Pride in America!

